

Members Present: Ian Johnson, Chair, Jo Lown, Ronn Moody, Cliff Watts, Judy Lucas, J. J. Malone, Polly Howard (arrived 7:05 p.m.), Carolyn Spring (arrived 7:10 p.m.). Absent: John Arnold.

At 7:02 p.m. Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Open Forum

There were no requests to address the Committee.

Budget Review – Board of Health

Paul McNulty, Director of Public Health, presented the proposed budget for the Health Department. The increase in salary expense is in accordance with the union contract and the cost of living increase approved by the Personnel Board. Expenses for FY2008 total \$14,600 and include increases of \$100 for office supplies (to \$700), \$100 for other supplies (to \$700), and \$200 for forms and bills (to \$800.) Forms used are triplicate with color printing, and the cost to produce them has increased. Estimated receipts for the year total \$62,500, and include \$60,000 for general permits and \$2,500 Medicare reimbursements for Flu Clinic.

Mr. McNulty also presented the proposed budget for the Sanitary Landfill. The contract with Wheelabrator (incinerator) expires at the end of 2007 and has been renegotiated. FY2008 will include ½ year at the old contract rate of \$36.98 per ton and ½ year at the new 20-year contract rate of \$70.50 per ton. The going rate is usually \$90 per ton. The new contract does not include a Guaranteed Annual Tonnage (GAT) amount. The old contract included a GAT of 12,000 tons. Westborough residents have been sending 6,000 tons per year to Wheelabrator and E.L. Harvey and Sons had been supplying the other 6,000 tons and reimbursing the town for the cost. Last year's reimbursement was \$119,940, and E.L. Harvey will no longer be paying reimbursements after December 31, 2007. E.L. Harvey and Sons charges \$30.00 per ton to transfer residents' trash to Millbury. The Board of Health is discussing raising the fee for dump stickers sold after April 2008 to recover some of the increase. Currently the fee is \$50/sticker with discounts for senior citizens and for second stickers at one household. Recycling-only stickers are free.

Recycling charges include \$95,000 for yard waste processing, and \$6,800 for disposal of TVs and computer monitors (CRTs) and recycling of materials such as fluorescent lights, white paper and cardboard from the schools and other municipal buildings. The fee for processing yard waste is increasing due to volume. More paper, cardboard, etc. recycling would save the town money since it is not transferred to Millbury or burned. Dr. Malone asked about the low level of recycling in town as reported in the Boston Globe. Mr. McNulty disputed the percentage published in the newspaper as inaccurate and explained that the data on recycling levels is poor since it comes from estimates not actual measurements. The best system to encourage recycling is the Pay-As-You-Throw system of curbside trash collection in pre-paid bags, which would require the town to provide curbside pickup to all residents. The Town bylaws state that recycling is mandatory. Workers at the transfer station do monitor what is thrown in the trash and they report license numbers of offenders to the Board of Health. AFC members recommended more education around recycling such as inserts in water bills and better signs on the transfer station recycling areas. The private collection services in town offer curbside recycling for an extra fee. The Board of Health is no longer selling compost bins as the program was difficult for them to administer. The Board of Health is requesting \$20,000 for a Household Hazardous Waste Day (currently Article 10G in the draft warrant dated March 7.) Last year the Hazardous Waste Day was able to process all cars that arrived before noon, with \$2,990 remaining in the appropriation. Mr. McNulty will try to schedule the day with the understanding that it could be cancelled if funding is not approved.

Budget Review – Assessors Department

Linda Swadel, Chief Assessor/Chairman, presented the proposed budget for the Assessor's Office. The increase in salary expense is in accordance with the union contract and the cost of living increase approved by the Personnel Board, and expenses are level funded. There is one Regularly Recurring Article in the warrant (currently Article 10C in the draft warrant dated March 7) to continue to grant increased real estate tax exemptions to certain qualified persons. Ms. Swadel also informed the AFC of the status of the legal action involving the wireless communication switching station located in Westborough. The wireless companies will appeal the current ruling and a decision is not expected before May 2008. If the decision is overturned, the town will face a deficit in the Overlay account. If the town wishes Ms. Swadel could use the assessments from the State Department of Revenue which are much lower than those that were granted in the latest court decision but would not be affected by the appeal of that decision. Ms. Swadel expects no large increases in the personal property tax assessments on town businesses.

Approval of minutes – Meeting No. 11, March 8, 2007

Mr. Watts moved approval of the minutes of Meeting No. 11, March 8, 2007. The vote to approve the minutes was 8 in favor with 8 members present.

Liaison Updates

Dr. Malone spoke with Maryanne Bilodeau, Asst. Town Coordinator, about the tank at the Forbes Municipal Building that failed inspection. This tank will be replaced out of this year's budget at an estimated cost of \$4,100. The tank in the Library is much bigger. Ms. Bilodeau has a request for funds for Harassment Training that will be discussed at the AFC meeting on March 19. Dr. Malone checked the figures on medical insurance spending published in the Westborough News and they are correct. Medical insurance costs are 10% of the town's spending.

Ms. Lown reported that Carolyn Delude has spoken with the insurance inspector about the tank and although possible, it is unlikely that the tank would blow up. What will happen is that pin holes will develop in the tank, allowing air to escape. Then the system will not function. The tank was installed in 1980 and has reached the end of its expected lifetime. Ms. Delude does not think there is a rush to replace the tank but she will defer to AFC recommendations. Five members of the AFC will attend a site visit at the library on Saturday March 17. Mr. Johnson noted that it might be better to fund the tank replacement this year given a known reserve fund amount and the lack of snow removed this winter.

Ms. Howard has scheduled presentations for March 15, 19, 22, and 26, 2007.

Mr. Johnson reported that Mr. Arnold has spoken with Joe Lawrence, MIS/GIS Administrator, who does not need to present his proposed budget, as there will be no new position included. He will be happy to attend if the committee has questions. Mr. Johnson is still working with the Historical Commission so is not ready to schedule their presentation.

Comments and concerns of Committee members

- Ms. Lown noted that the Wastewater Treatment Board will approve their budget at their next meeting.
- Mr. Johnson pointed out three citizens petitions in the draft warrant dated March 7:
 - Article 39 is proposed by James Tashjian and requests a renewed lease of town property for Post 85 Emergency Service Squad.
 - Article 33 requests movement of Town Meeting to March instead of May
 - Article 40 requests an additional wine and malt restaurant license for use by the Westborough Korean Restaurant, Young Nam Lee, owner.
- Mr. Johnson pointed to an article in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette last Sunday about the use of web sites in towns. Westborough will be posting results of town meeting in the future.

- Mr. Johnson announced the Westborough Community Land Trust's 10th Anniversary celebration being held on March 25 from 4–7 pm at Arturo's. Tickets are available at the door or by sending a check to WCLT, P.O. Box 838, Westborough, MA 01581. Tickets are \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members.

Adjournment

At 8:30 p.m. Mr. Watts moved to adjourn the meeting. The vote to adjourn was unanimous (8 present and in favor).